



Task Force Falcon

# Falcon Flier

Volume 3, Issue 3

Produced for the personnel of Task Force Falcon

December 15, 2000



Spc. Jose Soto, cook, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Rgmt., opens Gate 1 to Camp Monteith

## Out with the old, In with the new

Story and photos  
by Sgt. Thorin Sprandel  
Camp Monteith PAO

As the units of Task Force Falcon 2B take over the responsibility to keep the peace in Kosovo, each soldier must adapt to the unique challenges of being deployed to a potentially hostile environment.

While soldiers from incoming units unpack, make their first morale phone calls home and find their way around their camps, some soldiers are immediately faced with the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of the task force.

First Armor Division soldiers from 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment and 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Baumholder, Germany along with other various supporting units from across the globe became the new foot soldiers of force protection at Camp Monteith when they reported for guard duty Monday. Regardless of their military occupational specialties, these soldiers will work together to protect everyone in their camp.

See New Rotation page 5

## Local boy welcomed back, healed

Story and photos by Cpt. Laura Kenney  
Camp Bondsteel PAO

Miracles come in blinding flashes of light, or happen in the blink of an eye - at least so the storybooks say. But in real life, sometimes miracles are fought for, tooth and nail, through pain and tears and sheer strength of will. The real life miracle embodied by the present-day health and happiness of one small boy, Genis Shkodra, who by all accounts should have died months ago, is one such story.

A celebration of that miracle was held Nov. 30 with his triumphant return to the KFOR hospital that saved his life.

Genis walked into MedFalcon's field hospital, hale and hearty, shy, but with eager dark brown eyes taking in the balloons hung in his welcome, was a far cry from the shattered child brought in by a desperate mother last June.

Genis, now a vibrant 4-year-old Kosovo-Albanian child, was brought to MedFalcon with injuries so severe it took a team of doctors hours to put him back together.

A concrete pipe intended for use in his father's reconstruction of their home had fallen on the child's mid-section, crushing his pancreas and cutting his liver in half.

The surgery was a success, but the badly injured child at one time had six major organs cease functioning during the early days of his recovery from surgery. According to medical personnel, chances of survival are slim indeed after three vital organs stop. Genis was put in intensive care with 24-hour close watch kept by the doctor in charge of Intensive Care, Maj. David Vetter.

"I couldn't bear to leave him," said Vetter. According to hospital personnel, Vetter didn't. He stayed by the badly injured child's bedside for all but a few moments of the two weeks Genis clung to his life by a whisper-thin thread.

"I have a son that age, and all I could see was how precious that tiny life was, how devastated I would be at the loss of him, if he were to lose his opportunity to live and grow...so I, and all the other caring medical personnel at MedFalcon then, fought to give Genis his chance to live, and to spare his



Genis Shkodra is held by his father during a welcome back ceremony at Camp Bondsteel.

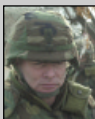
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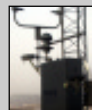
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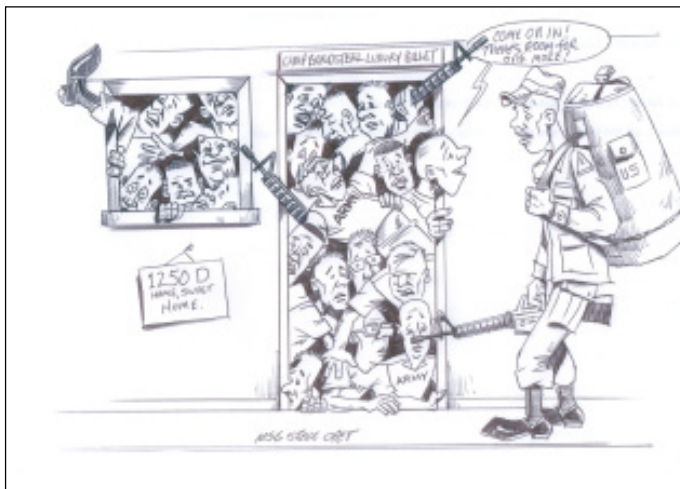
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Read the Falcon Flier online at  
[www.tffalcon.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.tffalcon.hqusareur.army.mil)



## ESSAY CONTEST

Camp Bondsteel's Equal Opportunity Office is celebrating Martin Luther King day with an essay contest. Anyone is welcome to enter.

Essays must be two pages typed and double spaced on an Equal Opportunity based subject. The top six essays will receive \$50 gift certificates from AAFES. Sergeant 1st Class Bruce Challenger, the KFOR 2B EO Advisor, will be judging the contest.

For more information concerning this contest or if you have any EO based questions call 781-5002 or visit him on Camp Bondsteel in building 1340, room D4N.

or email him at [challenderb@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil](mailto:challenderb@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil)

## WANTED

The Falcon Flier wants your stories -- award ceremonies, events, activities, or human interest news. All units from Camps Bondsteel, Able Sentry and Monteith are invited to submit information for publication. While we may not be able to run every story because of space limitations, we would like to hear from you.

Please feel free to contact the Task Force Falcon Public Affairs Office with your ideas, news and comments at:

(DSN) 781-5200

or e-mail us at [falconci@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil](mailto:falconci@bondsteel2.areur.army.mil).

## Falcon Flier

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# TFF MPs use radar to keep speeds down

**Story and photo by  
Pfc. Duane Brown  
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

The Task Force Falcon 793<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Battalion will be on point to ensure vehicle safety and keep accidents involving vehicles to a minimal over the Christmas holidays.

Radar guns will be used to aid MPs in their efforts, MP Staff Sgt. Archie R. Pairadee.

MPs will also have radar-equipped vehicles while on patrol, said MP Staff Sgt. Marty R. Butler.

Patrol vehicles equipped with radar guns must be manned by MPs certified through additional training provided by the Army, Butler said. Soldiers must become proficient in the operational aspect of radar system. MPs are trained to maintain the idea that the radar is used to aid already existing skills, not replace them.

"Each unit conducts these certification courses as a part of their formal training along with M.P. verification on a quarterly basis," said Pairadee. If they aren't trained, the radar isn't very effective.

Radar effectiveness can be affected by adverse weather conditions, said Butler. These conditions include fog, rain and during cold weather when the



patrol vehicle is stationary with the heater.

"Being subject to these conditions, is why MPs are taught not to depend on the radar," Butler said. "Radar is to be used as a verification."

Patrolmen are required to calibrate radar guns each time they are used, said Butler. No shift goes by where this routine isn't done. This ensures the

radar is accurate and helps keep the roads safe.

Penalties for speeding on post are measured by accumulating points, Butler said.

"We send the ticket to the Mayors Cell," Butler said. "The Mayor Cell then sends the information out to the commander."

The commander has the option to impose any disciplinary action not listed on the back of

the ticket itself, said Butler. He also has the option to pull the license no matter how minor the infraction. "Commanders can revoke Kosovo on post privileges for receiving a DD Form 1408, which is a ticket," Butler said.

"With the high number of people on foot and the high number of vehicles on the road, this in itself is enough for an extra effort to ensure safety," said MP Pfc. David Ronje



Complimentary Photo

Big Duke shines with all of it's glory in the night sky as a reminder of how beautiful Kosovo is and why we are here protecting this country.



# A quick reminder of why we are here

TWAS THE NIGHT  
BEFORE CHRISTMAS,  
HE LIVED ALL ALONE,  
IN A ONE BEDROOM  
HOUSE MADE OF  
PLASTER AND STONE.

I HAD COME DOWN THE  
CHIMNEY  
WITH PRESENTS TO  
GIVE,  
AND TO SEE JUST WHO  
IN THIS HOME DID  
LIVE.

I LOOKED ALL ABOUT,  
A STRANGE SIGHT I DID  
SEE,  
NO TINSEL, NO PRE-  
SENTS,  
NOT EVEN A TREE.

NO STOCKING BY  
MANTLE,  
JUST BOOTS FILLED  
WITH SAND,  
ON THE WALL HUNG  
PICTURES  
OF FAR DISTANT  
LANDS.

WITH MEDALS AND  
BADGES,  
AWARDS OF ALL KINDS,  
A SOBER THOUGHT  
CAME THROUGH MY  
MIND.

FOR THIS HOUSE WAS  
DIFFERENT,  
IT WAS DARK AND  
DREARY,

I FOUND THE HOME OF  
A SOLDIER,  
ONCE I COULD SEE  
CLEARLY.

THE SOLDIER LAY  
SLEEPING,  
SILENT, ALONE,  
CURLED UP ON THE  
FLOOR  
IN THIS ONE BEDROOM  
HOME.

THE FACE WAS SO  
GENTLE,  
THE ROOM IN SUCH  
DISORDER,  
NOT HOW I PICTURED  
A UNITED STATES SOL-  
DIER.

WAS THIS THE HERO OF  
WHOM I'D JUST READ?  
CURLED UP ON A PON-  
CHO, THE FLOOR FOR A  
BED?

I REALIZED THE FAMI-  
LIES  
THAT I SAW THIS  
NIGHT,  
OWED THEIR LIVES TO  
THESE SOLDIERS  
WHO WERE WILLING TO  
FIGHT.

SOON ROUND THE  
WORLD,  
THE CHILDREN WOULD  
PLAY,  
AND GROWNUPS  
WOULD CELEBRATE  
A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS

DAY.

THEY ALL ENJOYED  
FREEDOM  
EACH MONTH OF THE  
YEAR,  
BECAUSE OF THE SOL-  
DIERS,  
LIKE THE ONE LYING  
HERE.

I COULDN'T HELP BUT  
WONDER  
HOW MANY LAY ALONE,  
ON A COLD CHRISTMAS  
EVE  
IN A LAND FAR FROM  
HOME.

THE VERY THOUGHT  
BROUGHT A TEAR TO  
MY EYE,  
I DROPPED TO MY  
KNEES  
AND STARTED TO CRY.

THE SOLDIER AWAK-  
ENED  
AND I HEARD A ROUGH  
VOICE,  
"SANTA DON'T CRY,  
THIS LIFE IS MY  
CHOICE.

I FIGHT FOR FREEDOM,  
I DON'T ASK FOR MORE,  
MY LIFE IS MY GOD,  
MY COUNTRY, MY  
CORPS."

THE SOLDIER ROLLED  
OVER

AND DRIFTED TO  
SLEEP,  
I COULDN'T CONTROL  
IT,  
I CONTINUED TO WEEP.

I KEPT WATCH FOR  
HOURS,  
SO SILENT AND STILL  
AND WE BOTH SHIV-  
ERED  
FROM THE COLD  
NIGHT'S CHILL.

I DIDN'T WANT TO  
LEAVE  
ON THAT COLD, DARK,  
NIGHT,  
THIS GUARDIAN OF  
HONOR  
SO WILLING TO FIGHT.

THEN THE SOLDIER  
ROLLED OVER,  
WITH A VOICE SOFT  
AND PURE,  
WHISPERED, "CARRY  
ON SANTA,  
IT'S CHRISTMAS DAY,  
ALL IS SECURE."

ONE LOOK AT MY  
WATCH, AND I KNEW HE  
WAS RIGHT.  
"MERRY CHRISTMAS MY  
FRIEND, AND TO ALL A  
GOOD NIGHT."

(Editors Note: This poem  
was written by a Marine  
stationed in Okinawa Ja-  
pan.)

## FALCON'S FORCE

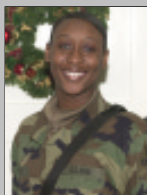
How do you deal with being away from your family during the holidays?



"My section is having a get together. We are going to enjoy Christmas to the fullest and try to make the deployment a success." Pvt. Vince F. Jahala, gunner, Co. B, 427th FA Bn.



"Since I can't be home, I'm going to church and spending time with my friends." SPC Delia M. Lopez, chemical specialist, HHC, 40th Eng. Bn.



"I'm going to church and hanging out with my friends and people I know and care about me." Pfc. Mary N. Simmons, personnel clerk, 40th Eng. Bn.



"It's hard to be away from home for the holidays, but I'll call my family and celebrate Christmas here." Spc. Edgar Chamale-Batres, mechanic, 1st Bn., 35 Amr. Rgmt.



"I'm going to put up Christmas lights in my seahut to help the guys get in the holiday spirit." Capt. Will Fork, logistics officer, 1st Bn., 35th Amr. Rgmt.



"Our S-3 shop is putting up trees and lights to get read for Christmas in Kosovo." SGT Shawn Halo, gunner, HHC, 1st Bn., 35th Amr. Rgmt.

### New rotation continued....

It's not difficult to adapt from normal duty to guard duty, said Sgt. Gretchen R. Gregory, medical specialist, Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion at Baumholder.

"Beginning in basic training where I learned combat skills and my general orders, I've never forgotten that I'm a soldier first," Gregory said who took on the additional responsibility to be commander of the relief.

"The guards at Monteith are just as important as the Iron Soldiers monitoring outpost Sapper," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael A. Spragley, noncommissioned officer in charge of force protection, Camp Monteith, 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. Rgmt.

All over the base camp, incoming soldiers are becoming fast friends as they work together with their outgoing counterparts and spend long shifts at the gates and in the towers, Gregory said.

Guard soldiers work four-hour shifts with eight hours of rest between shifts for one week. The rest helps soldiers to stay alert for any possible threat for the duration of their shifts.

While TF Falcon 2B soldiers may not have as much experience on guard duty as the soldiers they're replacing, all Iron Soldiers have the discipline and high level of integrity required of a soldier on guard, said Spc. Stephanie Lowes, licensed practical nurse, Co. C, 47th FSB.

Guard duty is a responsibility that all soldiers should be proud to perform, she added.

"Monteith's guards have the lives of everyone in the camp in their hands" said Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Lyons, force protection non-commissioned officer, Camp Monteith, 1st Bn., 6th Inf. Rgmt.

Incoming Camp Monteith soldiers will do what the outgoing soldiers did. Whether they're guarding the gate or with their unit, all soldiers do their duty to the best of their ability, he said.

The professionalism the incoming soldiers have already exhibited will ensure a seamless transition during the transfer of authority, he added.



Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Lyons, HHC, 2nd Bn. 6th Inf. Rgmt., inspects soldiers Monday morning as they began a week of guarding Camp Monteith's gate.

### Home continued...

Genis his chance to live, and to spare his parents that anguish," Vetter said. Genis fought, but a terrible infection that began to destroy the very flesh of his body. At one point, he had no skin left on his stomach or upper thighs, and plastic was wrapped around him to protect and keep in place his internal organs.

"We all knew Genis needed sophisticated care not available at Bondsteel. At that point, we represented the best care available in this shattered province, and we were just not equipped to handle Genis' treatment, so we started trying to find alternatives," Vetter said.

The best option was care in Germany, but a daunting snarl of bureaucratic and diplomatic rules and regulations governing the treatment and transport of local nationals through American military channels seemed to block every avenue. Diplomats worked the issue, but hope was fading fast for Genis when then Task Force Falcon commander, Brig. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, gave the order to transport the boy to Germany, destination - Landstuhl American Military Medical Facility.

Upon arrival, it was decided that the best care for Genis, whose condition had deteriorated further, was available at the German Hamburg Hospital. Vetter, by then working at Landstuhl, was able to frequently see the boy whom he'd practically adopted.

Genis required 10 more



Maj. David Vetter hands welcome back gifts to four-year old Genis Shkodra. Vetter is the doctor that saved the young boy's life.

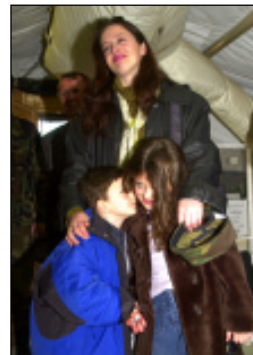
operations, and numerous skin graftings to replace the skin destroyed by his infection. His care was paid for private donations and aid groups, and the American Army provided means for his parents to stay by him constantly.

Genis' mother, Sabrije, who had kept her son alive after the original trauma by administering cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, prayed by his bedside those long, fear-filled months, frequently resting her lips on the child's fevered forehead and whispering words of love and encouragement.

She and her husband, Ismet, and Genis' big sister, 5-year-old Gureta, accompanied the healed

and whole Genis to the welcome-back party hosted by MedFalcon in his honor.

There to greet them, in the midst of a beaming staff which included doctors, nurses, and interpreters, was Vetter, who'd volunteered to fill a temporary need at MedFalcon. With tears streaming unabashedly down his face, he knelt and hugged Genis, who returned the embrace shyly, but fiercely. Blinking at the flash of cameras, Genis took Vetter's outstretched hand, and was led to a tent festooned with balloons and streamers, and a huge cake with a bright smiling sun and the words "Welcome back, Genis" written large. Vetter's eyes weren't the



Sabrije Shkodra holds her two children Genis and Gorette, thankfully.

only damp ones in the crowd. Local members of the press were observed rubbing their eyes, interpreters pressed tissues to noses, and Genis' mother didn't bother to wipe the tears that fell on her cheeks as she thanked the staff of MedFalcon for saving her boy's life.

"I prayed every night for my child. You, all of you, and especially Dr. Vetter, answered those prayers, and saved my child. God bless you," she said.

Genis, unaware now of all the fuss, contentedly explored the bag of gifts presented to him by Vetter, and made a grab at the one given to his sister...just as any normal 4-year-old boy would.

# Army sets five-year Balkans rotation

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Dec. 4, 2000) — Under a plan approved by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, the Army recently announced which active and reserve forces will see service in Bosnia and Kosovo through May 2005.

The announcement provides predictability for our soldiers and units to ensure they are given adequate time to train for the Balkans mission said Maj. Tom Artis, an Army spokesman. The rotation plan will also provide better linkages between the active and reserve forces, mitigate the effects of high operational tempo, and better sustain the Army's overall levels of readiness for contingency operations, he continued.

Under the plan, units from the active Army and reserve forces will support the Stabilization Force mission, known as SFOR, in Bosnia or the Kosovo Force, known as KFOR, for six-month periods.

Units for SFOR rotations 9 to 16 will be drawn from active Army divisions, Army National Guard divisions, the Army Reserve. Most rotations will have a mix of active/reserve units.

The Army set a historical precedent earlier this year when it designated the 49th Armored Division, Texas Army National Guard, as the headquarters for active and reserve forces conducting the SFOR mission March - October 2000.

Army National Guard divisions will command six of the next eight SFOR rotations:

SFOR 9 (April 2001 - Oct. 2001): 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart, Ga.

SFOR 10 (Oct. 2001 - April 2002): 29th Inf. Div., Virginia Army National Guard.

SFOR 11 (April 2002 - Oct. 2002): 25th Inf. Div., Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

SFOR 12 (Oct. 2002 - April 2003): 28th Inf. Div., Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

SFOR 13 (April 2003 - Oct. 2003): 35th Inf. Div., Kansas Army National Guard.

SFOR 14 (Oct. 2003 - April 2004): 34th Inf. Div., Minnesota Army National Guard.

SFOR 15 (April 2004 - Oct. 2004): 38th Inf. Div., Indiana Army National Guard.



Photo by Spc. Sean Neuhauer

Company A, 2/327th Inf Regt, 101st Airborne Division, walk through Vitina on patrol. The 101st will assume MNBE responsibility in June 2001.

SFOR 16 (Oct. 2004 - April 2005): 42nd Inf. Div., New York Army National Guard.

SFOR rotations 9 to 12 will incorporate units from the Army Reserve and six of the Army National Guard's 15 enhanced separate brigades.

The brigades are higher priority combat units that would be the first called to active duty in the event of mobilization. Units from additional enhanced brigades may be slated in the future to support SFOR rotations 13 to 16. Line troops slated for Bosnia are:

SFOR 9 (April 2001 - Oct. 2001): 48th Infantry Brigade (enhanced separate brigade), Georgia Army National Guard; 39th Infantry Brigade (enhanced separate brigade), Arkansas Army National Guard.

SFOR 10 (Oct. 2001 - April 2002): 155th Armored Brigade (enhanced separate brigade), Mississippi Army National Guard. Units from the 49th Armored Division, Texas Army

National Guard will also support SFOR 10.

SFOR 11 (April 2002 - Oct. 2002): 116th Cavalry Brigade (enhanced separate brigade), Idaho Army National Guard; 76th Infantry Brigade (enhanced separate brigade), Indiana Army National Guard. Units from the 34th Infantry Division, Minnesota Army National Guard, will also support SFOR 11.

SFOR 12 (Oct. 2002 - April 2003): 218th Infantry Brigade (enhanced separate brigade), South Carolina Army National Guard.

Units supporting KFOR rotations 3A to 6B, June-May 2005, will consist primarily of active-force units from the Army's III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas; V Corps, Heidelberg, Germany; and the XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C.

KFOR 3A (June 2001 - Nov. 2001): 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

KFOR 3B (Nov. 2001 - May 2002): 10th Mountain Division

(Light), Fort Drum, N.Y.

KFOR 4A (May 2002 - Nov. 2002): V Corps, Germany

KFOR 4B (Nov. 2002 - May 2003): V Corps

KFOR 5A (May 2003 - Nov. 2003): 4th Inf. Div., Fort Hood

KFOR 5B (Nov. 2003 - May 2004): 1st Cavalry Div., Fort Hood

KFOR 6A (May 2004 - Nov. 2004): 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart

KFOR 6B (Nov. 2004 - May 2005): 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault)

Since 1989, the number of Army deployments has grown by over 300 percent, yet the Army's active and reserve forces have shrunk by over 40 percent. "The missions of the post-Cold War environment, coupled with downsizing, necessitate increased use of the reserve forces," Artis said. "With approximately 54% of the Army now in the reserve forces, the Army routinely calls upon the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard to help carry out national military strategy."

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<http://www.tffalcon.hqusareur.army.mil/>

Task Force Falcon's Place on the Web

# Legislation helps DoD employees

Story by Bob D'Amore  
Army News Service

New FEGLI Legislation Provides Limited Enrollment Opportunity for Employees Deemed Emergency Essential

Public Law 106-398, enacted 30 October 2000, allows Department of Defense employees who are designated emergency essential under 10 U.S.C. Section 1580 an election opportunity under Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI).

These emergency essential employees who have previously waived FEGLI may elect Basic Insurance without having a physical. This election opportunity applies to Basic insurance only.

These employees may not elect or increase existing Optional Insurance under Pub. L. 106-398.

Employees designated emergency essential under section 10 U.S.C. Section 1580 may elect Basic Insurance within 60 days after being designated emergency essential.

Employees who were already designated emergency essential

at the time of enactment have 60 days from the date of enactment to make a FEGLI election.

This means that the election period for those employees already designated emergency essential began 30 October 2000 AND will end 30 December 2000.

It is imperative that these employees receive notification of this opportunity before 30 December 2000 as the law does not provide an extension of the 60 day opportunity period.

Employees who meet the criteria for an election opportunity under P.L. 106-398 may make the Basic FEGLI election by completing the SF 2817 Life Insurance Election. Item 2 must be completed and item 3 must be signed and dated by the employee.

Employees must send the properly completed SF 2817 to the ABC-C for processing. \* (see below)

The automated system will not accept changes to FEGLI based on P.L. 106-398. The remark "Authority for this election is P.L. 106-398", may be added in item 6 Agency Remarks, for clarification, but is not required.

Employees do not have to be performing the duties described in 10 U.S.C. Section 1580 to be eligible; the *only* criterion is that they are "designated" as emergency essential under this section.

The relevant portion of Section 1580 of Title 10 is provided for clarification.

**Title 10 Sec. 1580. Emergency essential employees: designation**

(a) Criteria for Designation. - The Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of the military department concerned may designate as an emergency essential employee any employee of the Department of Defense, whether permanent or temporary, the duties of whose position meet all of the following criteria:

(1) It is the duty of the employee to provide immediate and continuing support for combat operations or to support maintenance and repair of combat essential systems of the armed forces.

(2) It is necessary for the employee to perform that duty in a combat zone after the evacua-

tion of nonessential personnel, including any dependents of members of the armed forces, from the zone in connection with a war, a national emergency declared by Congress or the President, or the commencement of combat operations of the armed forces in the zone.

(3) It is impracticable to convert the employee's position to a position authorized to be filled by a member of the armed forces because of a necessity for that duty to be performed without interruption.

Please note that USAREUR employees are NOT covered by the Army Benefits Center at this time.

EE employees will need to submit their SF 2817 forms to their servicing CPACs. FAX will be the best method given the time constraints.

Questions can be directed to the Human Resource Representative, Ms. Diana Skelton, USASET, G1, Tazsar, Hungary, 670-2589.

Department of Army procedures for processing future designated EE employees are in development and will be staffed upon receipt.

## Armywide conference stresses equality, dignity among the ranks

Story by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
Army News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. (Army News Service, Dec. 1, 2000) — Treating everyone with dignity and respect is the foundation for equality in today's Army, the top-ranking enlisted soldier stressed at the Army's third annual world-wide Equal Opportunity Training Conference.

"Treating all soldiers fairly, that's what it's all about," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley as 444 military and civilian equal opportunity advisors and advocates — most of them senior noncommissioned officers — began three days of workshops. The sessions were focused on providing all soldiers and their families equal treatment and consideration wherever they serve — from Kansas to Korea.

"The key to success for equal opportunity is communication skills among all people," said Tilley who acknowledged that equal opportunity concerns among the Army's racially and culturally diverse men and women are being taken far more seriously than when he joined the Army in November 1969.

That, said the 12th sergeant major of the Army, is the way it should be for the good of all active-duty and reserve component soldiers — for "the Army" advocated by his boss, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki.

The Florida conference's makeup during this holiday season mirrored the modern Army.

It included 223 active-duty equal opportunity advisors from every major Army command around the world, 108 members of the Army National Guard, 79 Army Reserve soldiers, and 26 equal employment opportu-

nity civilians.

They were focused on finding better ways to enforce the Army's equal opportunity policy.

The updated policy that has been in effect since July 1999 applies on and off Army posts, during duty and non-duty hours, and in all working, living and recreational environments.

It calls for an environment free from discrimination and offensive behavior and requires fair treatment for all "without regard to race, color, gender, religion, or national origin."

"People are the supreme building blocks of the force. The interaction among those people determines how well the force functions and how well the Army fulfills the challenges that the nation puts before us," observed Brig. Gen. William Heilman, who was hosting the conference.

The 1973 West Point graduate and former artillery officer in August became director of the Army's Human Resources Directorate within the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

Emphasizing the importance of equal opportunity at the company level, where most of the Army's soldiers serve, is Heilman's major concern.

"We must always look for better ways to include the concepts of human relations and equal opportunity into the fabric of the force without losing focus on the things that have made us successful," Heilman said. "The biggest challenge is to design an equal opportunity program that is genuinely accepted as a necessary component of leadership and readiness, not just an add-on or a check-the-block thing to do," he added.

The Army's atmosphere is far more friendly than it was during the summer of 1971 when he witnessed a race riot among soldiers serving in Germany while he was a West Point cadet, Heilman said. But the work goes on.

The Orlando conference, he explained, was designed to explore the complexities of human relations and equal opportunity for advisors who have already trained at the Florida-based Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute and who must advise their commanders on sometimes-sensitive issues.

"We are adding new tools to their toolboxes," said Heilman who believes in the adage that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. "We are stressing the proactive approach at this conference. It's a lot better to address these issues before they become problems."

The new tools will come from workshops focusing on such issues as The Reality of Racism, The Facilitation Process, Negotiating Equal Opportunity with Difficult People, and Managing the Diversity of Psychology Type.

Guest speakers included John McLaurin, deputy secretary of the Army for military personnel policy; Lt. Gen. Timothy Maude, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel; Lt. Gen. Russell Davis, chief of the National Guard Bureau, and Maj. Gen. Thomas Plewes, chief of the Army Reserve. They underscored the Army's commitment for respecting and providing equal advancement opportunities for all of its soldiers, civilian workers and families.

*"People are the supreme building blocks of the force. The interaction among those people determines how well the force functions and how well the Army fulfills the challenges that the nation puts before us."*

**Brig. Gen. William Heilman**  
conference host





**Above:** As soldiers at Ramjame prepare for range activity as Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley observes.

**Top right:** SMA Tilley settles in the driver's seat for some hands on training at Ramjame range.

**Far right:** During his visit, SMA Tilley acknowledged soldiers on a job well done.

**Middle, right:** Soldiers at Viti/Vitina enjoy a little rest and relaxation with SMA Tilley by shooting some hoops.

**Right:** SMA Tilley receives a brief on recent sector activity at the OutPost Gunner Camp by 144th Field Artillery soldiers.





# Sergeant Major of the Army visits soldiers in Kosovo

**Story and photos by  
Pfc. Duane Brown  
Camp Bondsteel PAO**

Sergeant Major of the Army Jack L. Tilley visited Camp Bondsteel this week to interact with soldiers during a tour of various Army posts around the world.

He toured installations in Bosnia, Korea, Italy and Egypt in an attempt to reach out to the soldiers and gather feedback for senior Army leaders.

"I have been in this position just about six months, so what I'm doing is visiting as many units as I can in the Army," said Tilley.

Tilley began his visit by participating in an all Non-Commissioned Officer, three-mile run.

"The run was a chance for both newly promoted and senior non-commissioned officers to

interact with the SMA on a common level," said Sgt. Samie J. Moon, mechanic, HHC, 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade motor pool.

Tilley took a tour of Viti/Vitina then attended a luncheon that evolved into an open forum with any junior enlisted soldiers who choose to get involved.

"This is a great thing," said First Sgt. Daniel J. Gilligan Company C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 327<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment. "Soldiers see there opinions are being noted."

The day continued with the Outpost Gunner Camp.

While out there, Tilley looked over maps and received a briefing concerning recent activity in the sector.

"National Guard and Reservist are doing a tremendous job," Tilley said.

"It's good for lower enlisted soldiers to get this type of exposure while deployed," said, Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Ralph Bryant, 144<sup>th</sup>

Field Artillery Unit.

Tilley then went to Ramjane Range and actively participated in tank fire exercises.

Going out into the field allows me to make sure I give as many soldiers as possible the chance to be heard, said Tilley.

"One of my biggest responsibilities is to make sure I see soldiers down range," Tilley said. "This allows me to see how they are living and what kind of facilities they have and what kind of concerns they may have concerning the military."

Things came to a close the following day at Bondsteel with a dinner that also transformed into another open forum for enlisted soldiers.

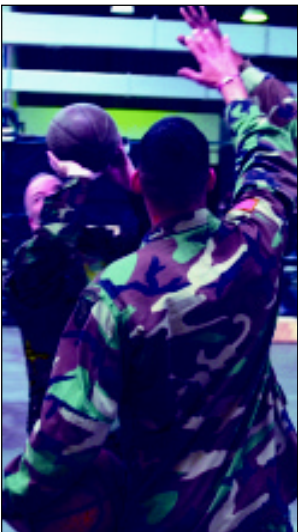
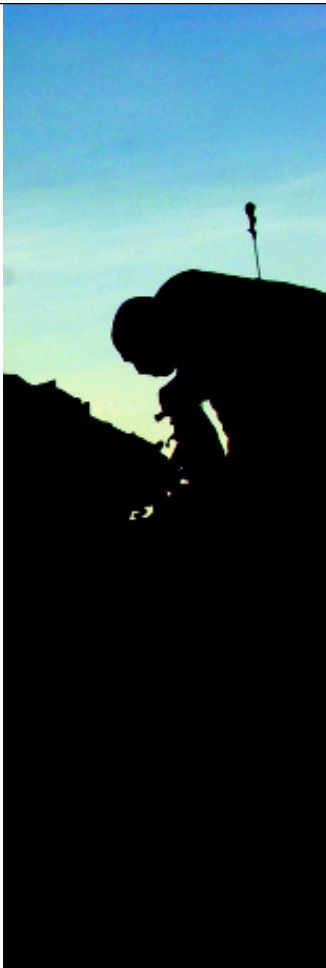
Many of the issues that came up during my visit were the issues that have been issues everywhere I have visited so far in the Army, Tilley said.

Topics included pay issues, Tri-Care Health Care, quality of life issues and retirement benefits, Tilley said.

One question soldiers brought up was, "Why does the Army pay people so much to come into the military and don't pay us much to stay in the military?" Tilley said.

He said he'd bring these issues back to the pentagon to be addressed by senior Army leaders.

It's nice to see that even in Kosovo the Sgt. Maj. of the Army takes time out of his busy schedule to participate in an event where everyone gets the chance to be involved," said Sgt. Christopher M. Anderson, Camp Bondsteel. "It's nice to see we have not been forgotten."





## Serbian school children adopt medical soldiers

Story and photos by Sgt. James Montoya  
Camp Bondsteel PAO

Serbian school children got a first hand glimpse of what life is like at Camp Bondsteel Saturday.

Forty eight children from Viti/Vitina met firefighters, learned dental hygiene and got a taste of base cuisine during their full day of activities.

The children were here to visit with soldiers from Task Force Med Falcon. Soldiers were adopted Saturday, by Serbian children grades 1-8.

"We brought the children here so our soldiers could spoil them," said Maj. George J. Melloh, hospital executive officer, Task Force Med Falcon.

As the children walked through facilities available to soldiers of Task Force Med Falcon, they were able to try on masks and hairnets that are used in the operation room. The children also saw a little of what goes on in the Camp Bondsteel hospital.

"We had a lot of fun," said Sgt. Andrea Luevano, medic,

Task Force Med Falcon.

Brown and Root firefighters set up a fire hose for kids to spray and a fire truck for them to climb on as part of the tour. The children also had the opportunity to sit in a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

The day progressed for the children and adopted soldiers with trips to the PX and a choice to eat lunch at a dining facility or Burger King. At the PX, Jasmina Djajic picked up some nail polish, candy, and a barbie doll. Adopted soldiers, like Sgt. Luevano made sure the Serbian children, like Jasmina had a memorable experience at Camp Bondsteel.

After lunch, participants met in the Camp Bondsteel movie theatre to learn about oral hygiene.

Children received toothbrushes and proper instruction on how to brush and take care of their teeth.

At 2 p.m. the kids sang songs to their adopted soldiers as a way of saying thank you and goodbye. Final farewells were said, and the kids went home.

"This has to be the highlight of my tour," Melloh said.



Top: Brown and Root Firefighter Burim Hygen shows Jasmina Djajic how to fight fires. Bottom: Sgt. Andrea Luevano, medic, Task Force Med Falcon, helps Jasmina Djajic out of the UH-60 Blackhawk.

## Legal Corner

# Reports of Survey: Your rights and responsibilities

Story by Cpt. Geoff DeWeese  
Legal Assistance Officer

You've just been handed a notice telling you that a Report of Survey says you may have to pay the Army for lost or damaged property or equipment. What does this mean and what can you do about it?

First, nothing is final yet. This is not a criminal charge. After receiving the notice you have the opportunity to review the Survey Officer's findings and evidence. If you desire, you can submit a rebuttal statement that offers your point of view.

Once the Survey Officer has your rebuttal, he or she will consider it and may do an additional investigation. If he or she continues to believe you are responsible for the loss or damage, the ROS will be forward to the Approving Authority for final action.

Should you be found liable, you may submit a request for reconsideration to the Approving Authority. If it is turned down, your request will be forwarded to the next higher commander as an appeal. In all but a few exceptional cases, the decision on the appeal will be final.

You are not alone in this process. You have the right to consult with a Legal Assistance Attorney who will discuss with you the issues involved and work on ideas for a rebuttal.



Your attorney can help you write your rebuttal and review your drafts for you. He or she can also answer your questions about the process and advise you on your options. However, it is your signature on the rebuttal and ultimately it is your responsibility to provide a rebuttal statement. Don't just drop off your ROS and expect the Legal Assistance office to do the rest.

As soon as you have been handed the notice, you may contact the Legal Office to meet with an attorney. From the time you are handed the notice, you normally have seven calendar days to prepare your rebuttal before the Survey Officer will forward the ROS without your input, you get more time if the ROS has to be mailed to you due to your unavailability.

If circumstance will make it difficult to finish your rebuttal in the time limit, either you or your attorney may ask for an extension of time, but don't count on this being granted.

Before you go see your attorney think about the issues that seem unfair or incorrect to you. Prepare a draft rebuttal. Read through the packet carefully and identify points you disagree with and be prepared to tell your attorney why you think this should change the outcome of the ROS.

Your attorney will discuss your ideas with you and help explain why the Survey Officer has found you liable. Your attorney will also help you create a final draft of your rebuttal statement.

Together, you and your attorney will be able to ensure that your side of the story is heard and that the Approving Authority has the full picture before he or she acts on the recommendation of the Survey Officer.

Contact the Camp Bondsteel Legal Office for further assistance at 781-4012.

## Sexual harassment affects everyone

Story by Sgt 1st Class Bruce Challenger  
Camp Bondsteel EO Advisor

Sexual harassment is not about being politically correct, and it is not about expecting others to adapt and accommodate your behavior, it is about treating everyone with dignity and respect.

Sexual harassment is a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. It can be explicit or implied, written or spoken, and either verbal or nonverbal.

The intent of the individual alleged to be acting in a sexually harassing manner is irrelevant. It is the impact the incident has on the individual or the work environment that matters.

Whether you are joking around, requesting a sexual favor as a condition for a promotion, award, or an evaluation report, or allowing a hostile work environment to exist as a supervisor, you are participating in sexual harassment and will be held accountable. The military's policy is clear, sexual harassment is unacceptable and will

not be tolerated.

Different regulations are not used to apply at different times and in different circumstances. Whether you are in garrison, the field, or in Kosovo, it is not acceptable to conduct yourself in a derogatory, sexist manner when in the company of your same gender and then expect the other gender to "just deal with it."

You are not required under any circumstance to tolerate any situation that attempts to intimidate, control, coerce, or demand sexual interaction of any kind as a condition of your job, pay, advancement, or career.

You are not required to tolerate sexually oriented or offensive comments, gestures, cartoons, or jokes. There is not an exception to this policy. We are all professionals, and we will treat each other accordingly, regardless of the environment we are in, who we work for, our position or pay grade, or our gender.

Every member of our military, civilian, soldier, airman, navy, or marine, active duty, national guard, or reservist is directly responsible to ensure an environment exists that is not fettered by individuals who conduct themselves in a sexually harassing manner.

Everyone must speak up



when inappropriate comments or actions occur. Each member of our team must treat others with the dignity and respect guaranteed by our regulations, policies, and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Permitting any other environment to exist puts everyone at risk.

Sexual harassment can have devastating effects upon the individual and within the units in which it occurs.

Confidence, trust, respect, and integrity are valuable components to the success of any

team. We must have that confidence and trust in our entire chain of command from the commander to the most junior member of the team. The consequences of their absence affect us all.

An understanding of sexual harassment is not a block to be checked, and it is not an issue that will go away if it is ignored. It will continue to affect our readiness, our ability to work together as a cohesive team, and depends upon the efforts of everyone to eliminate it.



## AF weather guys keep pilots flying

Story and photo by CW2 Jennifer Seay  
Falcon Flier stringer

Air Force personnel provide Army aviators here with accurate weather information for flight missions using various equipment and troops from all over the globe.

Like the Army, the Air Force deploys individuals and equipment from its various installations around the world to support such missions as Bosnia and Kosovo.

Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Timothy Launius, Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii, is a weather observer here. Observers are the eyes for the forecaster and other weather stations. He gathers local weather information through the Portable Automated Surface Observing System.

This machine, which was installed about nine months ago at Camp Bondsteel, contains different sensors for capturing and analyzing data for current temperature, wind speed and direction, visibility, relative humidity and pressure. This information is passed via voice and text to a computer that Launius monitors in the weather station.

Human observation is still a necessity despite the gadgetry. "The visibility and ceiling levels are usually off," explained Launius, "because these conditions aren't so easily detected by the sensors."

This is where Launius and fellow observer Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Matthew Strachan, from Cape Canaveral, Fla., come in.

Using a marked location, observers stand and turn a circle, physically looking at the current visibility and cloud ceilings. The verified information is then sent to the Air Force Weather Agency out of Offutt in Omaha, Neb., where it is reviewed before being transmitted worldwide.

"These observers have a lot of responsibility on recording what is reality," said Capt. James R. O'Connor, Squadron Commander from Illesheim, Germany.

Staff Sgt. Ruben Kast, a forecaster from Langley Air Force Base, Va. takes the information from the observers as well as from radar and satellites to forecast the weather and pass the information on to aviators before a flight mission.

Working as a team, the Air Force weather crew uses its diversity and specialized equipment to provide Task Force Falcon and KFOR with accurate, up-to-date weather conditions and forecasts to complete assigned missions.



An Air Force weather observer on Camp Bondsteel makes a 360 degree check to determine the visibility and validate the PASOS results to assure our pilots have accurate information before going out on flight missions in Kosovo.

## TFF Post Office Holiday Hours

### Camp Bondsteel (Main and Satellite)

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Christmas Day, Dec. 25: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
New Years Eve, Dec. 31: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
New Years Day, Jan. 1: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Camp Monteith

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Christmas Day, Dec. 25: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
New Years Eve, Dec. 31: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
New Years Day, Jan. 1: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

### Camp Ably Sentry

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Christmas Day, Dec. 25: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
New Years Eve, Dec. 31: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
New Years Day, Jan. 1: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Movies		December Movie Schedule Camp Bondsteel theater		Movies	
Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup> - 1800 hrs	The Kid	Dec. 23 - 1930hrs	The legend of Bagger Vance	Dec. 23 - 2130hrs	Amy-Jane McCabe (Variety)
2000hrs	Bless the Child			Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	Men of Honor
Dec. 16 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	Nurse Betty			2130hrs	Red Planet
2130hrs	Salsa music/dance after movie			Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	Red Planet
Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	Urban Legends			2130hrs	Lucky Numbers
2130hrs	Godzilla 2000			Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup> - 2000hrs	Men of Honor
Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	The Cell				Little Nicky
2130hrs	The Nutty Professor: The Klumps			Dec. 27 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	Kevin Banford/Baker Field Boys Country Music/Dance After
Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	Urban legends			Show	
2130hrs	Way of the Gun			Dec. 28 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	Red Planet
Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup> - 2000hrs	Bring It On			2130hrs	Bravo! (Play) Touring Soldiers Show
	Whatever It Takes			Dec. 29 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	The Legend of Bagger Vance
Dec. 21 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	The Watcher			2130hrs	Red Planet
2130hrs	Nurse Betty			Dec. 30 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	Men of Honor
Dec. 22 <sup>th</sup> - 1930hrs	Lucky Numbers			2130hrs	Audio Visuals (Urban Band)
2130hrs	The Legend of Bagger Vance				

## Chaplains' Corner

# Character Matters

When the going gets tough, the tough get going

by Maj. Robert Land  
Task Force Falcon Chaplain

The careful observer of the current political season will note the come back of the outcry "character matters!" Because this is so, issues such as "honesty" and "integrity" became headline issues, and a means of political attack. While this is unfortunate, I feel compelled to join the fray because Character DOES matter!

The dictionary defines "character" as "moral or ethical strength, integrity, or fortitude." Have you ever noticed that you always have more words to look up **after** you've looked up a word? Anyway, "fortitude" is defined as "strength of mind that allows one to endure pain or adversity with courage," and "integrity" as "rigid adherence to a code of behavior."

Thus, character is that strength of mind that enables one to live according to one's beliefs, no matter the circumstances. It is demonstrated in the life of the prophet Daniel, a prisoner in the land of Babylon.

Daniel was one of many

Israelites taken into captivity by King Nebuchadnezzar. It was the King's intention that these captives adopt the ways of the Babylonians, extinguish their religious fervor and identity, and forsake their God.

An intense program of indoctrination was forced upon them. They were made to learn stories of Babylonian heroes, and given the finest food from the King's table.

Not only were they attacked in their minds and bodies, but even in their spirits! The King changed their names. Daniel, whose name means "God is Judge," was to be known as "Belteshazzar" meaning "Bel (their chief god) protects." How would the captive Daniel respond to this attack on his beliefs by a dictatorial King?

He would respond with **conviction**, based upon his beliefs! Daniel **knew** that the Babylonian captivity was not the defeat of his God, but His disciplining of His people. It would not last forever. He also knew God's guidelines for living. And so, even though Daniel could not control the outward circumstances, he did "take charge" of

his heart!

He determined to **not** violate God's standards! Daniel also responded with **courage**. When commanded to eat the King's choice food (something that could easily be rationalized; after all, he was a captive, so why not grab any creature comfort?), Daniel "actively and intensely sought" permission to not obey Nebuchadnezzar's order! He knew the fine food would violate the guidelines of his religion. Daniel acted courageously, based upon his convictions! How could he do this? He could do this because Daniel was **confident** in the abilities of his God! He asked that he and his fellow servants be tested. They would eat according to their faith for a given time, and let them be compared with those who ate the king's food.

Daniel was confident that his God would justify him and back him up in this matter! He was not disappointed!

Daniel was a man of character, as evidenced by his uncompromising convictions, courage, and confidence during difficult circumstances. How do we respond when facing problems? Do



our beliefs **make any** difference, or are they just for weekend meetings? If we are to be people of character, then our beliefs must count at all times. But be warned! This takes courage. The world is filled with opportunities to rationalize and compromise, to take the "easy left" instead of the "hard right!" Choose the right, and be people of convictions and courage! Read the Scriptures, for they are filled with examples of people of character.

And as you read, you will find that you too can have the confidence of Daniel! The object of his trust was the Living God, who proves time and again that He is faithful! You will not be disappointed!

### Worship Schedule

#### Camp Bondsteel

##### Roman Catholic

Sun 0730 Catholic Mass Southtown Chapel  
Sun 1200 Catholic Mass Southtown Chapel  
Tue 1900 Catholic Mass Southtown Chapel  
Thu 1900 Catholic Mass Southtown Chapel  
Thu 1930 RCIA Southtown Chapel  
Sat 1100 Spanish Mass Southtown Chapel

##### Protestant

Sun 0800 Sunday School Bondsteel Chapel Tent  
Sun 0900 Protestant Service Bondsteel Chapel Tent  
Sun 0900 Protestant Service Southtown Chapel  
Sun 0930 BUB Worship Service BUB Room  
Sun 1015 Sunday School Southtown Chapel  
Sun 1900 Protestant Service Southtown Chapel  
Sun 1900 Protestant Service MASH Chapel  
Mon 2000 Bible Study Southtown Chapel  
Tue 2000 Bible Study 503rd MP, BLD 1092A  
Tue 2000 Bible Study (Master Life Study) 2-3 FA  
Wed 2000 Bible Study 2-3 FA  
Thu 1900 Bible Study MASH Hospital  
Thu 1830 Bible Study 2-3 FA TOC Regimental Room  
Thu 1900 Bible Study MASH

#### Gospel

Sun 1600 Gospel Service Bondsteel Chapel Tent  
Wed 1900 Joy Night Bondsteel Chapel Tent  
Thu 1800 Prayer Service Bondsteel Chapel Tent  
Fri 1900 Fellowship Night Bondsteel Chapel Tent  
Sat 2000 Gospel Choir Practice Bondsteel Chapel

#### Islam

Tue 2000 Islamic Prayer UAE Chapel  
Fri 1200 Islamic Prayer Time Bondsteel Chapel Tent

#### Latter Day Saint

Sun 1600 LDS Service Southtown Chapel  
Mon 1800 Family Home Evening

#### Orthodox

Sun 1100 Orthodox Divine Liturgy Bondsteel Chapel Tent

#### Jewish

Fri 2000 Jewish Service South Camp Chapel

#### Marriage Class

Wed 2000 Marriage Enrichment Southtown Chapel

#### Camp Montieth Services

**SUNDAY**  
0830 LDS Worship  
1000 Collective Protestant  
1300 General Protestant Gospel  
1730 Protestant Service/Bible Study  
1900 Catholic Mass  
1930 Catholic Choir Practice  
**MONDAY**  
1900 All Soldier Bible Study  
**TUESDAY**  
1900 Gospel Bible Study  
**WEDNESDAY**  
1900 Catholic Mass  
1930 Catholic Inquiry Class  
1900 Gospel Brotherhood (DFAC)  
1900 Gospel Sisterhood, 4th Wed (Bld 401)  
**THURSDAY**  
0800 Catholic Mass  
1900 Good News Bible Study  
**FRIDAY**  
1200 Islam Prayer Service (Daily prayer at 2100)  
1200 Christian Mid Day Prayer  
1900 Chapel Fellowship Night  
**SATURDAY**  
1900 Building Relationship Skills  
**Camp Able Sentry**  
**Sunday**  
1030 Protestant Service  
1200 Latter-Day Saints Service  
1300 Spanish Mass  
**Tuesday**









The Three Wise Men stand at the foot of the newly lit Christmas tree.



Violeta Kuka leads her girls choir in song.

Photos by Sgt 1st Class Richard Puckett



Pfc. Matthew Escalanti, HHC, 2nd BDE, 1st Armor Division, shows 11-year-old Kristina Stepani his video camera after the tree-lighting ceremony.

## It's Christmas time at Camp Bondsteel

Story By Pfc. Duane Brown  
Camp Bondsteel PAO

Hundreds of colored Christmas lights filled a pine tree that illuminated Camp Bondsteel Thursday evening, while the hearts and ears of many were filled with Christmas spirit as Kosovar children sang seasonal classics.

The Christmas tree lighting ceremony was held at the North Chapel in an effort to bring the Camp Bondsteel community together and enjoy a little holiday spirit.

"It doesn't matter whether it's a rack of 15 pool balls or a 20-foot Christmas tree," said Marcus L. Wheeler, Morale Welfare and Recreation representative, Camp Bondsteel. "If it puts a smile on a soldier's face, that's what our business is. To bring home a little closer, even if home is 100's and 100's of miles away."

The ceremony was put together with the combined efforts of MWR, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineers Battalion and local Brown and Root Services.

Brown and Root Services put

in the electricity for the lights. MWR purchased the Christmas tree and the 40<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn., built a manger for the nativity scene.

"We did this to bring holiday cheer to Camp Bondsteel," said Col. John D. Jordan, battalion commander, 40<sup>th</sup> Eng. Bn.

The ceremony began with a nondenominational prayer. Following the prayer Task Force Falcon commander Dennis E. Hardy then thanked the choir for coming and with the help of one little girl lit the Christmas tree.

Preceding the lighting of the tree, about 45 local children from the village of Viti/Vitina joined the ceremony and sang a rendition Christmas carols to celebrate the coming of the festive season.

Kristina Stepani, 11, was excited to be see Camp Bondsteel and be part of the ceremony.

"I really liked the church and every place here," she said.

The ceremony put at least one soldier in holiday spirits.

"It's a great way to make the best out of Christmas in Kosovo," PV2 Railynn L. Thompson, a member of the 527<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company.

## Task Force Falcon CSM sends out his welcome

I would like to say hello to all of you out there in Falcon Land. It's more than an honor and a pleasure to be part of this outstanding team. I would like to pass on what I believe are some of the Keys to Success for an excellent deployment.

First you must understand our goal is to bring everybody back home in one piece. To do this we need to provide a safe and secure environ-



ment. How do we do this? Start with weapons safety; you need to know and understand your weapon, proper clearing procedures, and the status of your weapon. Next you need to keep security in mind, and maintain strict adherence to set standards and discipline. Don't get caught short not knowing your job, always remember your Task and Purpose. Before starting any mission, you need to conduct Risk Assessments, PCT's, PCC's, and prior to that you need to rehearse and establish set Battle Drills. With the onset of winter, you need to have a good working plan for operating in the Cold. Snow Chains, Cold Weather Gear, Reduced Speeds and a high state of Situational Awareness are all things you need to keep in mind.

As time roles by your job may become routine. You may think the job has become boring and easy, but I'm warning you right now how dangerous this situation can be. Fight Combat Complacency wherever it pops up, it can and will hurt you! Most of all, we need to work hard on building a cohesive fighting team, not just amongst Iron Soldiers, but all the units of Task Force Falcon. If you forget everything I'm telling you today, remember to hammer home the Rules of Engagement, Force Protection, and bring to the life CG's Flat Ass Rules. If you remember to do these things, I guarantee we will have a successful and safe deployment.

HOOAH!